

### Remarks

Applicants and the undersigned wish to express their appreciation to Examiner Rimell and Examiner Chojnacki (the "Examiners") for the courtesies they extended during a telephone interview with the undersigned that occurred on February 7, 2006. During the interview, the Examiners agreed to withdraw the Non-Final Office Action, and requested that Applicants submit these supplemental remarks. Accordingly and for the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that the present case is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim changes included within the Amendment dated June 15, 2005 are fully supported by the original specification and the figures.

For example, as discussed in the Background of the Invention, the invention is directed towards a method of performing searches within computer network-based systems. Specifically, the Background of the Invention describes that searching "a computer network-based system to identify relevant information or individuals having expertise on a specific subject can be tedious and time consuming, especially in systems having numerous *databases storing vast amounts of information* such as the wide area network commonly referred to as the Internet." (Emphasis added.) As such, performing a search on the Internet using commonly available search engines often results in identifying numerous *information sources* that are not particularly relevant to the specific subject.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would understand that the reference in the Background of the Invention to *storing information within the databases* to identify *information sources* indicates that the *databases include a plurality of data files for storing information*. A "data file", as used by those skilled in the art, refers to a computer file which stores information or data for use by a computer application or system. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, including the figures, clearly describes storing "*data files*" in a plurality of databases, and therefore, supports the recitation added to the claims of the present application in the Amendment dated June 15, 2005.

By way of further example, the specification also describes that “Server system 12 also includes an extended search server 32 for performing an extended search to index content linked to clustered servers 16. The databases which comprise and are accessible via system 12 are *data sources* which a user can search via one of client systems 14.” (Emphasis added.) (Page 4, Paragraph 19.) As such, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would recognize that when an operator searches the *data sources or databases*, the operator is searching *data files stored within the databases*. (Emphasis added.)

As another example, at page 5, paragraphs 22-24, the specification provides in relevant part as follows:

The web site described above is organized around communities targeted to specific populations of users. Users customize the web page using three vectors. Specifically, a user enters organization, function and location (geographic) information, and based on that information, communities are identified to which such user can belong. For example, a user can be a engineer in a power systems business and located in Florida. That specific user therefore could be a member of an engineering community (vector 1), an engineering community comprising engineers in power systems businesses (vector 2), as well as an engineering community comprising engineers in power systems businesses located in Florida (vector 3)... (para. 22)

...the vectors are used by the processor to identify search results from databases corresponding to particular communities. Therefore, the user can attempt to narrow the search results to be displayed, sometimes referred to herein as a “zoom” search. (para. 23)

More particularly, each search result includes a community identifier, and the processor is programmed to cause to be displayed only the search results corresponding to communities (i.e., vectors) selected by the user via the user interface.... (para. 24)

As described above, the vectors identify or locate *data files* stored within the computer. As such, when an operator enters an organization, function and location (geographic) information, based on that information, search results corresponding to communities (i.e., vectors) are identified to which such user can belong.

By way of further example, page 7, paragraphs 29 and 32 of the specification provides in relevant part as follows:

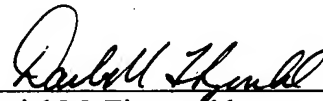
...Each search result is associated with a vector when stored in the memory. That is, each search result includes an identifier that is used by the processor to determine a vector to which the result corresponds.

As shown in Figure 5, the user has selected to view the type 2 (vector 1) results, which are the search results based on the searching conducted in the databases that comprise the user's business community....

In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art, after reading the original specification and reviewing the figures, would understand that within the present system data files are stored within a plurality of databases, and that each data file is assigned a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the claim changes included within the Amendment submitted on June 15, 2005 are fully supported by the original specification and the figures.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel M. Fitzgerald  
Registration No. 38,880  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070



## Interview Summary

Application No.

10/021,474

Applicant(s)

GREWAL ET AL.

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Art Unit

2184

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Sam Rimell.(3) Dan Fitzgerald.(2) Melissa Choinacki.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_.

Date of Interview: 07 February 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.Identification of prior art discussed: August et al..Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: (1) Examiners agreed to withdraw non-final action. (2) Applicant agreed to provide supplemental remarks to clarify where amended features are presented within the specification. (2) Upon receipt of these supplemental remarks, examiners will continue examination on the merits. (3) If next office action includes rejections, such rejections will be made non-final.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

  
 Examiner's signature, if required

## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

#### Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiner's Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

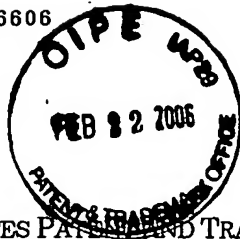
A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

# Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 07 Feb 2006

To: Dan Fitzgerald	From: Sam Rimell
Application/Control Number: 10/021,474	Art Unit: 2164
Fax No.: 314-612-2391	Phone No.: (571) 272-4084
Voice No.: (314) 621-5070	Return Fax No.: (571) 273-8300
Re:	CC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> For Comment <input type="checkbox"/> For Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Per Your Request	

## Comments:

Copy of Interview summary per your request.

  
SAM RIMELL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Number of pages 3 including this page

**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

This facsimile transmission is an Official U.S. Government document which may contain information which is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for use of the recipient named above. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this document is strictly prohibited. If this document is received in error, you are requested to immediately notify the sender at the above indicated telephone number and return the entire document in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Express Mail Label No.: EV679299571US

17652-00008  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Grewal et al. :  
Serial No.: 10/021,474 : Art Unit: 2164  
Filed: October 30, 2001 : Examiner: Mellissa M. Chojnacki  
For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS :  
FOR PERFORMING A :  
CONTROLLED SEARCH :

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL TO  
THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS**

Express Mail No. EV679299571US

Date of Mailing: February 22, 2006

I certify that the documents listed below:

- Certificate of Express Mail (1 page)
- Supplemental Remarks in Response to Examiner Interview (4 pages)
- Copy of Interview Summary (3 pages)
- Return Post Card

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Fitzgerald  
Reg. No. 38,880  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, MO 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070